

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 10075 210929Z
ACTION EA-09

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SUBJECT: MYONGDONG TRIAL: DEFENDANT'S DELIVER FINAL ROUND
OF SPEECHES

REF: A) SEOUL 9814, B) SEOUL 9863

SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 20, ALL EIGHTEEN MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS
MADE FINAL ROUND OF SPEECHES TO COURT, CAPPED BY KIM TAE-CHUNG'S
RINGING SPEECH TO GALLERY. ALL DEFENDANTS MAINTAINED THAT
THEY DID NOT INTEND TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT BUT STOOD BY
PRINCIPLES OF MARCH 1 DECLARATION. TWELVE HOUR SESSION CLOSED
WITH DEFENDANTS SINGING NATIONAL ANTHEM. DEFENSE LAWYERS CLAIM
THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT FINAL VERDICT AND SENTENCING WILL
BE. COURT IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN DECEMBER 29.
END SUMMARY.

1. ALL EIGHTEEN MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS SPOKE IN MARATHON
TWELVE-HOUR SESSION OF MYONGDONG TRIAL, REMAINING ADAMANT
THAT MARCH 1 DECLARATION WAS STILL AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR
BELIEFS AND THAT THEY HAD NOT CONSPIRED TO ELICIT MASS
SUPPORT TO OVERTHROW PRESENT ROK GOVERNMENT. DEFENDANTS
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 10075 210929Z

INCLUDING YUN PO-SUN, CHUNG IL-YONG, CHUNG'S WIFE, AND
OTHERS MADE RINGING, CROWD-PLEASING STATEMENTS. KIM KIM TAE-
CHUNG, LOOKING VIGOROUS AND HEALTHY, CLOSED SESSION WITH
TOUCH HOUR-LONG PRESENTATION.

2. AFTER EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO COURT FOR WHAT "DEMOCRATIC"

OBSERVANCES IT HAD OFFERED DEFENDANTS AND TO GALLERY WHOSE VERY PRESENCE MADE HIS REMARKS AND WORDS OF OTHER DEFENDANTS, POSSIBLE, KIM TAE-CHUNG HAD TWO COMPLAINTS:

A. THAT CATHOLIC FATHERS ON TRIAL WERE NOT PERMITTED TO CALL THIRTEEN WITNESSES THEY HAD REQUESTED; AND

B. THAT PROSECUTION HAD NOT PRODUCED EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ROKG CONTENTION THAT GROUP CONSPIRED TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT. KIM THEN MADE USUAL "DEMANDS" INCLUDING ABOLISHMENT YUSHIN CONSTITUTION; REPEAL OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 9; RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; REINSTATEMENT OF PROFESSORS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN FIRED FOR POLITICAL BELIEFS; DISBANDING KCIA; AND DISCLOSURE OVERSEAS SCANDALS TO INCLUDE THOSE INVOLVING PAK TONG-SON AND GULF OIL COMPANY PAYMENTS ETC. YUSHIN, HE SAID, ONLY PROLONGS ONE MAN'S POWER, AND REGIME IS EVEN BEING FORSAKEN BY ALLIES, CAUSED BY OVERSEAS AND HOME SCANDALS. POWER MUST BE TURNED OVER TO ANOTHER, BUT "IT NEED NOT BE SOMEONE FROM OPPOSITION." PROMISING TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY, HE CONCLUDED "IT IS PROPER THAT I AM NOW IN PRISON...THIS IS NOW WHERE A PATRIOT SHOULD BE."

3. YUN PO-SON MADE ANGRY SPEECH; CHUNG IL-YONG AND HIS LAWYER WIFE, YI TAE-YONG, MADE IMPASSIONED SPEECHES WITH ALL THREE SHARPLY CRITICIZING PAK REGIME, DEPLORING RECENT SCANDALS, AND INDICATING THEY PREPARED TO GO TO JAIL FOR SAKE OF DEMOCRACY. NOTING NIXON HAD HIS WATERGATE AND WE HAVE OUR "KOREAGATE," YUN SAID: WILL THIS LOSE US OUR ALLIES? WITHOUT THE U.S., YUN ASKED, WHERE CAN WE GO? RUSSIA? CHINA?

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 10075 210929Z

4. AFTER KIM TAE-CHUNG HAD FINISHED SPEAKING, ENTIRE COURROOM BEGAN SINGING NATIONAL ANTHEM WHICH JUDGE DID NOT PREVENT. DEFENDANTS' WIVES STOOD OUTSIDE COURROOM, SINGING IN KOREAN THAT DEFENDANTS SHOULD BE RELEASED. AFTER 10 MINUTES, COURT OFFICIALS WERE ABLE TO DISPERSE THIS GROUP.

LATER, LAWYER YI TAEK-TONG TOLD US SHE "HAD NO CLUE" WHAT SENTENCES WOULD BE. NEXT RIAL SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 29. LAWYERS SAID THAT JUDGE WAS MODERATE BUT THAT VERDICT WOULD "NOT ORIGINATE FROM HIM."
SNEIDER

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